GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1344
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
COUNTERFEIT TRADE IN IT SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that counterfeit trade in IThardware has increased and it is having negative impact on the growth of leading IT hardware manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether the Union government with the help of State Governments propose to take concrete steps to check the spread of counterfeit market of IT products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a),(b) and (c): The Department of Information Technology(DIT) has no information on the quantum of counterfeit trade in IT Hardware. Under the Copyright Act, 1957, a computer programme is protected and not hardware. Violation of Trademarks is a punishable offence and enforcement agencies at Centre and State levels enforce the same vigorously, Department of Revenue Intelligence has effected seizures of computer parts in 4 cases valued at Rs.2.31 crores attempted to be smuggled into India in violation of Provisions of Customs Act, 1962 in this financila year. For curbing counterfeit trade and the grey market, DIT hasrecommended reduction ion levies and tariffs on IT Hardware.